

G. W. JONES.
TELEPHONE COMPTOMETER.
APPLICATION FILED NOV. 5, 1909.

1,055,917.

. Patented Mar. 11, 1913.

Fig. 1.

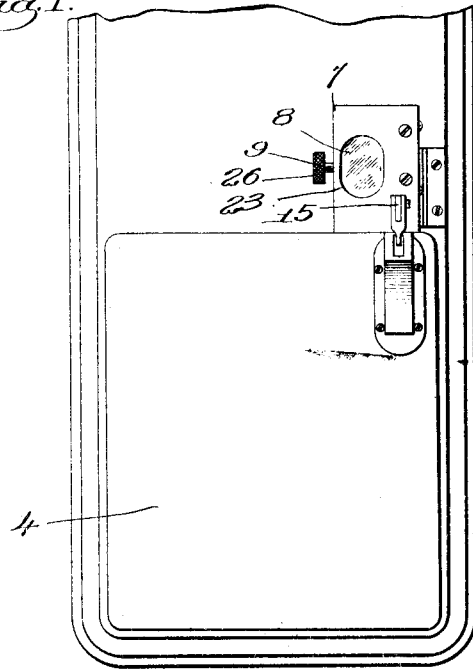


Fig. 2.

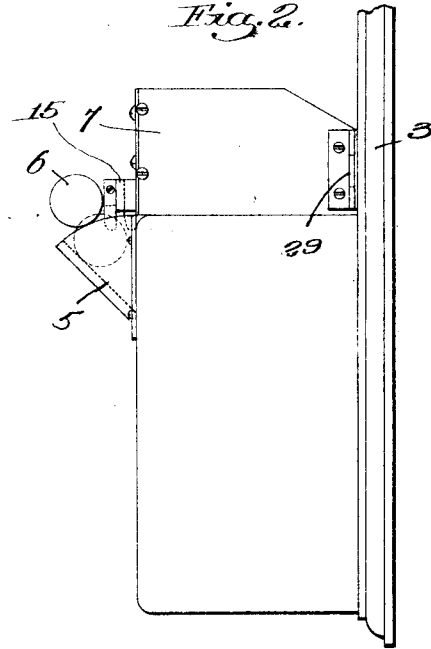


Fig. 3.

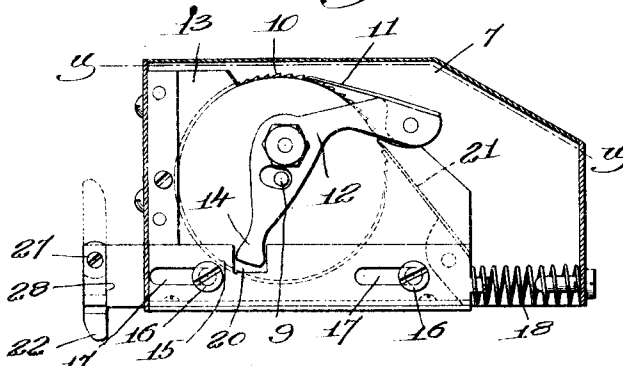


Fig. 5.

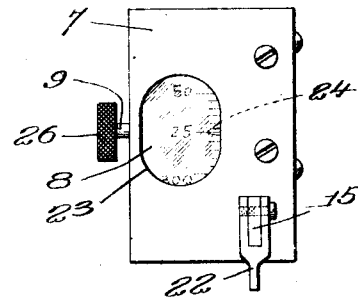
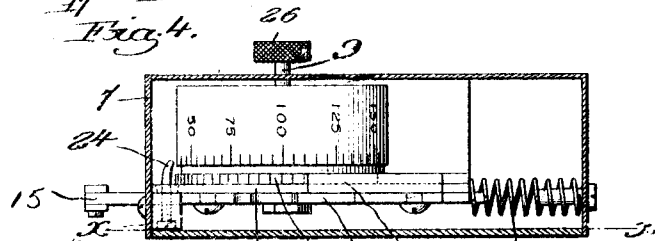


Fig. 4.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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TELEPHONE-COMPTOMETER.

1,055,917.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Mar. 11, 1913.

Application filed November 5, 1909. Serial No. 526,354.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GEORGE W. JONES, a citizen of the United States, residing at Boston, county of Suffolk, State of Massachusetts, have invented an Improvement in Telephone-Comptometers, of which the following description, in connection with the accompanying drawing, is a specification, like characters on the drawing representing like parts.

This invention has for its object to provide a novel counting attachment for coin-controlled devices by means of which the amount of money which has been deposited through the slot of the coin-controlled device will be indicated.

While the device is capable of use in connection with a variety of coin-controlled devices, it has been especially designed for use in connection with telephones of that type wherein the user deposits a coin each time that the telephone is used.

Telephone companies are usually prepared to install a telephone service wherein the charge is based on the number of calls, the provision usually being added that a minimum charge of a certain amount is made for each month's service regardless of the number of calls. Telephones installed under these conditions are frequently provided with a coin-controlled apparatus including a coin-receiving slot so that a coin corresponding to the charge for each call (a nickel being a common charge) is deposited by the subscriber each time that a call is made. If we suppose that the minimum charge for the month is \$2.50 and the charge for each call is five cents, then a subscriber is obliged to pay for fifty calls each month, whether he uses the telephone to that extent or not, and each call over the fifty, of course, costs him a nickel. When a telephone of this nature is installed, a subscriber rarely remembers how many calls he has made and as the end of the month approaches he does not know whether he has used more than the number of calls corresponding to the minimum charge or less than the number of calls corresponding to the minimum charge. If the subscriber could know at any time during the month what proportion of the fifty calls he has used he could often so conduct his business as not to use any extra calls during the month beyond that provided for by the minimum charge.

My invention is a counting attachment

which is so arranged that every time a nickel or other coin is deposited into the coin-receiving slot, the attachment will register this fact and a subscriber may, therefore, know at all times just how many calls he has used.

Referring now to the drawings wherein I have shown a selected embodiment of my invention, Figure 1 is a front view of the lower portion of a telephone stand provided with the nickel-in-the-slot attachment, the telephone being omitted and showing my counting attachment associated therewith; Fig. 2 is a side view of Fig. 1; Fig. 3 is a vertical sectional view through my improved counting attachment on the line $x-x$, Fig. 4; Fig. 4 is a section on the line $y-y$, Fig. 3; Fig. 5 is a front elevation.

I have not deemed it necessary to illustrate the whole telephone herein, but have simply shown the lower portion of the back-board 3 of a telephone, it being understood that the transmitter and receiver and other telephonic apparatus are supported on the upper end of this board.

4 indicates the coin-in-the-slot attachment which includes the coin-receiving slot 5 through which the coin 6 is deposited each time that the telephone is used. The coin 6 may be one of any value, but as in most of these telephones a five-cent piece is the regular charge, I will hereinafter refer to the coin as a nickel.

As stated above, my improvement consists in a counting device which is associated with the coin-controlled apparatus 4 and which serves to register the total amount of the money deposited through the coin-receiving slot 5. The counter herein illustrated is included in a casing 7 which is attached to the back-board 3 and which houses an indicating cylinder 8 which is graduated to indicate dollars and cents. This cylinder is mounted on a shaft 9 supported by the casing and has rigid therewith a ratchet-wheel 10 that is engaged by a pawl 11 carried by a rocking lever 12 that is suitably secured to a support 13. The end 14 of the rocking lever is moved by a reciprocating actuator 15 which extends out beyond the casing and which is guided in its movement by screws or pins 16 that are secured in the support 13 and play in slots 17 extending through the actuator. The actuator is acted upon by a spring 18 which tends to keep it in normal position, but is adapted to be pushed

inward by the coin 6 when the latter is inserted in the slot. The actuator may be connected to the lever 12 in a variety of ways, and I have herein shown it as provided with the notch 20 into which the end 14 of the lever is received, so that the reciprocation of the actuator will rock the lever. A stop-pawl 21 acts to prevent the ratchet-wheel and cylinder 8 from turning backwardly. The projecting end of the actuator is situated over the coin-receiving slot 5 and it has pivoted thereto a finger 22 that is normally received in said slot and which partially closes the latter, as clearly seen in Fig. 2. As a result, whenever the coin 6 is inserted into the slot, said coin will engage the end of the actuator and the finger, and the act of inserting the coin into the slot will force the actuator backwardly, thus causing the lever 12 to rock and feeding the cylinder 8 forward one step. It will thus be seen that each time a coin is inserted in the slot the cylinder will be moved forward one step.

The front of the casing 7 is provided with an aperture 23 through which the cylinder can be seen, and I will preferably provide an indicating finger 24 which is visible through said opening and which gives the correct reading on the cylinder 8.

From the above it will be seen that each time the telephone is used and a coin is inserted into the slot 5, the cylinder 8 will be advanced one step and the subscriber has before him at all times a correct record of the number of calls made since the beginning of the month. The shaft 9 of the cylinder is provided with a thumb-piece 26 by means of which the cylinder can be adjusted to zero position at the beginning of each month.

The object in pivoting the finger 22 to the actuator is so that the finger may be swung into the dotted line position Fig. 3 up out of the coin-receiving slot whenever it is de-

sired to drop a coin in the slot without operating the counting attachment. I have herein shown said finger 22 as pivoted to the actuator at 27 and the actuator is provided with the shoulder 28 below the pivot against which the finger rests normally and which limits the inward swinging movement of the finger while permitting said finger to swing outwardly and upwardly into its dotted line position Fig. 3.

The casing 7 may be secured to the back-board 3 in any suitable way, but I will preferably hinge it thereto, as shown at 29, so that after the finger 22 is swung into its dotted line position, the casing 7 may be swung laterally to one side if this is necessary in order to permit the opening of the box or coin-controlled attachment 4.

While I have shown the invention as it might be used in connection with a coin-controlled telephone, yet I wish it understood that the counting attachment might be applied to other coin-controlled devices and that the invention is not necessarily limited to use in connection with a telephone.

Having fully described my invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:—

The combination with a coin-receiving member having a coin-receiving slot, of a coin-counting attachment pivoted to the coin-receiving member and comprising a reciprocating actuator, and a finger pivoted to the actuator and adapted to extend into the slot, said finger being capable of being swung out of the slot to permit the coin-counting attachment to be moved into inoperative position.

In testimony whereof, I have signed my name to this specification, in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

GEORGE W. JONES.

Witnesses:

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